

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 8 and 15 as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment practice, changes in the amended claims are shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough (for deleted matter). All the pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (currently amended) A check valve comprising:

a body configured to permit fluid to flow therethrough, said body including a flange extending circumferentially around an inner periphery of the body, the flange having an inner surface defining a valve aperture; and

a poppet valve moveably mounted within the valve aperture, said poppet valve including a longitudinal axis, a head, a continuous annular ring and a plurality of guide legs between the head and the continuous annular ring, said plurality of guide legs extending from the head and through the valve aperture, each of the plurality of guide legs including an outer peripheral surface facing the inner surface of the flange, the outer peripheral surface including a radial first section, a radial second section, and a radial ~~second~~ third section, said radial first section, said radial second section and said radial third section of the outer peripheral surface are substantially parallel to and extend along the longitudinal axis, wherein the radial second section is recessed back from the radial first section and the radial third section in relation to the inner surface of the flange, wherein the radial first section and the radial third section are at the same radial distance from the longitudinal axis.

2. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 1, wherein the radial second section of the outer peripheral surface is spaced at a greater distance along the longitudinal axis away from the head than the radial first section of the outer peripheral surface.

3. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 1, wherein outer edges of the radial first, radial second, and radial third sections of the outer peripheral surfaces are rounded.

4. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 1, wherein the radial second section of the outer peripheral surface forms a flow path with the inner surface of the flange to permit debris to pass between the radial second section and the inner surface of the flange while the valve is in an open position.

5. Cancelled.

6. (currently amended) The check valve of claim 1, wherein the radial first and radial third sections are in close proximity to the inner surface of the flange to aid in guiding the poppet valve in the valve aperture during operation.

7. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 1, wherein the radial first section includes a diameter formed on an arc of a circle having a diameter slightly less than a diameter of the valve aperture.

8. (currently amended) A check valve comprising:

a body configured to permit fluid to flow therethrough, said body including a flange extending circumferentially around the inner periphery of the body, the flange having an inner surface defining a valve aperture; and

a poppet valve moveably mounted within the valve aperture, said poppet valve including a longitudinal axis, a head, a continuous annular ring and a plurality of guide legs between the head and the continuous annular ring, said plurality of guide legs extending from the head through the valve aperture, each of the plurality of guide legs including an outer peripheral surface facing the inner surface of the flange, the outer peripheral surface including a first section spaced at a first radial distance from the longitudinal axis, a second section spaced at a second radial distance from the longitudinal axis to allow debris to pass between the second section and the inner surface of the flange while the valve is in an open position, and a third section spaced at the first radial distance from the longitudinal axis, said first section, said second section and said third section of the outer peripheral surface are substantially parallel to and extend along the longitudinal axis, wherein the first radial distance is greater than the second radial distance.

9. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 8, wherein the second section of the outer peripheral surface is spaced at a greater distance away from the head than the first section of the outer peripheral surface.

10. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 8, wherein outer edges of the first, second, and third sections of the outer peripheral surfaces are rounded.

11. (original) The check valve of claim 8, wherein the second section of the outer peripheral surface forms a flow path with the inner surface of the flange to allow debris to pass therebetween.

12. Cancelled.

13. (previously presented) The check valve of claim 9, wherein the first and third sections are in close proximity to the inner surface of the flange to aid in guiding the poppet valve in the valve aperture during operation.

14. (original) The check valve of claim 9, wherein the first section includes a diameter formed on an arc of a circle having a diameter slightly less than a diameter of the valve aperture.

15. (currently amended) A check valve comprising:

a body configured to permit fluid to flow therethrough, said body including a head and a flange extending from the head and circumferentially around the inner periphery of the body, the flange having an inner surface defining a valve aperture; and

a poppet valve moveably mounted within the valve aperture, said poppet valve including a longitudinal axis, a head, a continuous annular ring and a plurality of guide

legs between the head and the continuous annular ring, said plurality of guide legs extending through the valve aperture, each of the plurality of guide legs including a radial outer peripheral surface facing the inner surface of the flange, said outer peripheral surface extends along and is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, wherein a flow path is defined between a recessed section of the radial outer peripheral surface and the inner surface of the flange while said poppet valve is in an open position to allow for debris to pass between the radial outer peripheral surfaces and the inner surface of the flange, wherein the recessed section is at a first radial distance from the longitudinal axis and all other sections of the outer peripheral surface are at a second radial distance from the longitudinal axis.

16. (original) The check valve of claim 15, wherein the flow path is defined longitudinally along the guide legs at a distance from the head of the poppet valve.

17. Cancelled.

18. Cancelled.

19. (New) The check valve of claim 15, wherein the radial outer peripheral surface includes a second recessed section, wherein the second recessed section is at the first radial distance from the longitudinal axis.

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